



## HSL-45 DET 2 “DEATH DEALERS” MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006



October 4, 2006

Hello once again DET 2 families!  
With two months in the books, we are fast approaching the halfway point on our deployment. WESTPAC '06 aboard USS HALSEY continues to be quite an experience, to say the least.

The month of September started off as a busy one, as many of the detachment maintainers were preparing for their upcoming advancement exams. AD2 Rosariodiaz, AE2 Van Nieuwenhuyse, AO2 Morris, and AZ2 Kibodeaux took their E-6 exams on the first week of the month for each of their respective rates. AE3 Kliever took the E-5 exam the subsequent week, and AZAN Briscoe took the E-4 exam the week after.



*LT Mott heads up a roundtable discussion during the DET's quarterly Safety Standdown.*

Although the beginning of the month was work-intensive, we used a DET Safety Standdown to take a much needed step away from the hustle and bustle of daily helicopter operations and to refocus ourselves. Air Det pilots, aircrewmen, and maintainers gathered in the ship's classroom to reevaluate how we

had been doing business for the prior month, and discussed ways to safely and efficiently improve things.



*The DET MO and the day check maintainers look on as the HALSEY Chief-selects wash down Lonewolf 47.*

As we approached the middle of the month, the crew of the HALSEY made preparations to pull into port for some much needed maintenance. As we pulled away from the operating area, we all found time to relax. In response to a prank played on the Air Det by the HALSEY Chief-Selects (first-class petty officers waiting to pin on their Chief anchors), the maintainers “allowed” the new chief selects to wash Lonewolf 47 as they looked on. The next day, the entire crew found time to relax and enjoy some good BBQ during one of the ship's many “Steel Beach Picnics”.

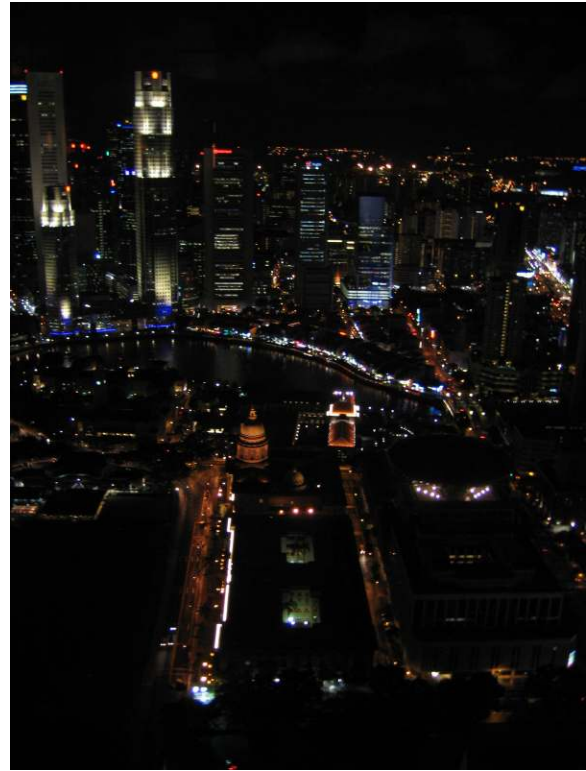


*AE3 Klierer, AT2 Coapland, AT2 Senkowski, AZ2 Kibodeaux, AZAN Briscoe, AD2 Rosariodiaz, AM2 Stein, and AW2 Messick (L to R, back to front) enjoy the day during a "Steel Beach Picnic".*

Perhaps the highlight of the month was the ship's first port visit after almost an entire month at sea. In mid-September, the HALSEY pulled into Changi Naval Base in Singapore, a tiny Asian country on the southern tip of a peninsula, bordered to the north by Malaysia. The ship spent six days in port while conducting maintenance, so everyone on the detachment had time to see the sights and hit the town. It was a much needed break for everyone after being underway for an extended duration of time. It was also an enlightening experience, especially for first-time deployers, to get out and explore the country and share in the culture of the Singaporean people.



*DET 2 Officers hit the town during a wardroom function in downtown Singapore.*



*An amazing view of the downtown Singapore from the tallest hotel in town.*

After the long port call, the HALSEY quickly got back on-station, but still found time to steer south to briefly cross the equator (a fact which would soon affect the futures of a few of the Air Det members). With the ship back on station, the air detachment picked up where it left off, flying the remainder of its 80-hour allocation for the month. Even with the ever-changing weather conditions due to a tropical storm/typhoon in the area, the pilots and aircrew continued to carry out their missions and remain a player in the Southeast-Asian GWOT.

In order to recognize the hard work and dedication of the DET 2 maintainers, an awards ceremony was held. A handful of the detachment maintainers received Good Conduct awards, and some were recognized for many of their other achievements as members of the HSL-45 Wolfpack. This included AA Barnard, who was recognized as HSL-45 Blue-Jacket of the Quarter (Sea).



DET 2 sailors to continue to remain highly motivated, obtaining even more qualifications underway. We'd like to congratulate AO2 Morris on his Plane Captain (PC) qualification, AT2 Senkowski on his Flight Deck Director (FDD) and Traverse Only LSO qualifications, AT2 Coapland on his Traverse-Only LSO qualification, as well as AA Barnard on his FDD qualification.



*The entire AIR DET gets formed up for a Sunday DET awards ceremony.*



*AE2 Van Nieuwenhuyse is awarded a Good Conduct Award by the Air Boss, LCDR Schlesinger.*

The day after the awards ceremony, one of the detachment's motivated sailors reenlisted for another 6 years in the presence of the entire detachment, as well as some of the ship's company. AT2 Coapland was discharged momentarily by the Air Boss, LCDR Schlesinger, and then was sworn in again by AEC Sandlin. After the ceremony,

detachment personnel enjoyed cake as they prepared for another day of flight ops.



*AEC Sandlin reenlists AT2 Coapland, while the AIR DET looks on.*



*AT2 Coapland is congratulated by AEC Sandlin and AO2 Morris after reenlisting for another 6 years.*

As October rolled around, it was time for the crew of the HALSEY to carry out one of the oldest and most treasured ceremonies in the Navy—the “Crossing-the-Line” Ceremony. Because the HALSEY did officially cross the equator, all the “Pollywogs” (or, “Wogs”) on board were given the opportunity to join their more experienced “Shellback” counterparts by subjecting themselves to the will of the Shellbacks, “Davey Jones”, and “King Neptune” himself. All of the six Air Det Wogs (LT Gatchalian, LT Murtagh, AD2 Rosariodiaz, AM2 Stein, AZAN Briscoe, and AA Barnard) eagerly volunteered themselves for what turned out to be a very

memorable and all-together enjoyable bonding experience. In the end, the rest of the Air Det and the crew of the HALSEY gladly welcomed all six to the exclusive fraternity of the Shellbacks.



*AIR DET "Wogs" proudly display their Wog t-shirts prior to the following day's Crossing-the-Line Ceremony.*



*AZAN Briscoe, LT Murtagh, and LT Gatchalian (three of the 6 AIR DET "Wogs" attempt to sing karaoke with the help of fellow Wogs during the Wog Talent Show*



*AIR DET Wogs make their final plea to become honorable "Shellbacks" in front of the "Royal Court".*

As this month comes to a close, we would once again like to thank you for your love and support from the home front. It has been another long and tumultuous month aboard the USS HALSEY, full of surprises at every turn. Nevertheless, we continue to look forward to that day we get to see you all again back in the HSL-45 hanger at our homecoming. Please continue to send emails and care packages, because it's always nice to have a little bit of home here on board. We hope you enjoy the photos!



*AM2 Stein, AE3 Kliewer, AEC Sandlin, AT2 Senkowski, and AZAN Briscoe (L to R) work together to fold the tail pylon at the completion of flight ops.*



*AO2 Morris, the night check shift supervisor, helps AA Barnard clean the helo hanger.*